

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1 - 79. (Canceled)

80. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A method for ef-claim-65, isolating nucleic acids from a biological sample comprising:

combining the sample with at least one cationic surfactant, at least one protease, and a buffer, to form a reaction composition;

incubating the reaction composition at a temperature suitable for releasing nucleic acid from the biological sample; and

isolating the released nucleic acid;

wherein the method further comprising comprises adding a polymer.

81. (Previously presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the polymer is a polyethylene glycol.

82. (Canceled)

83. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A method for ef-claim-82, isolating nucleic acids from a biological sample comprising:

combining the sample with at least one cationic surfactant, at least one protease, and a buffer, to form a reaction composition;

incubating the reaction composition at a temperature suitable for releasing nucleic acid from the biological sample; and

isolating the released nucleic acid;

wherein the method further comprises adding a divalent cation capable of precipitating the nucleic acid, wherein the divalent cation is zinc.

84. (Canceled)

85. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A method for ~~of claim 84,~~ isolating nucleic acids from a biological sample comprising:

combining the sample with at least one cationic surfactant, at least one protease, a buffer and a ribonuclease inhibitor, to form a reaction composition;

incubating the reaction composition at a temperature suitable for releasing nucleic acid from the biological sample; and

isolating the released nucleic acid;

wherein the nucleic acid is ribonucleic acid.

86. (Previously presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the ribonuclease inhibitor comprises aurintricarboxylic acid, vanadylate ribonucleoside complexes, phenylglyoxal, p-hydroxyphenylglyoxal, polyamines, spermidine, 9-aminoacridine, iodoacetate, bentonite, poly[2'-O-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)]poly(adenylic acid), zinc sulfate, bromopyruvic acid, formamide, copper, or zinc.

87. (Previously presented) The method of claim 86, wherein the ribonuclease inhibitor is aurintricarboxylic acid.

88. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A method for ~~of claim 84,~~ isolating nucleic acids from a biological sample comprising:

combining the sample with at least one cationic surfactant, at least one protease, and a buffer, to form a reaction composition;

incubating the reaction composition at a temperature suitable for releasing nucleic acid from the biological sample, wherein the reaction composition is incubated at a temperature of less than 60° C; and

isolating the released nucleic acid;

wherein the nucleic acid is ribonucleic acid.

89. (Previously presented) The method of claim 88, wherein the reaction composition is incubated at a temperature between 40° C and 50° C.

90. (Canceled)

91. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A method for ef claim 90, isolating nucleic acids from a biological sample comprising:

combining the sample with at least one cationic surfactant, at least one protease, and a buffer, to form a reaction composition;

incubating the reaction composition at a temperature suitable for releasing nucleic acid from the biological sample, wherein the reaction composition has a pH between 5.0 and 7.0; and

isolating the released nucleic acid;

wherein the nucleic acid is ribonucleic acid.

92. (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, wherein the reaction composition is incubated at a temperature between 40° C and 50° C, and wherein the reaction composition further comprises aurintricarboxylic acid.

93 - 102. (Canceled)

103. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A method for ef claim 102, releasing nucleic acids from a biological sample comprising:

combining the sample with at least one cationic surfactant, at least one protease, a buffer and a ribonuclease inhibitor, to form a reaction composition; and

incubating the reaction composition at a temperature suitable for releasing the nucleic acids from the biological sample;

wherein the nucleic acid is ribonucleic acid.

104. (Previously presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the ribonuclease inhibitor comprises aurintricarboxylic acid, vanadylate ribonucleoside complexes, phenylglyoxal, p-hydroxyphenylglyoxal, polyamines, spermidine, 9-aminoacridine, iodoacetate, bentonite, poly[2'-O-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)]poly(adenylic acid), zinc sulfate, bromopyruvic acid, formamide, copper, or zinc.

105. (Previously presented) The method of claim 104, wherein the ribonuclease inhibitor is aurintricarboxylic acid.

106. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A method for ~~of claim 102,~~ releasing nucleic acids from a biological sample comprising:

combining the sample with at least one cationic surfactant, at least one protease, and a buffer, to form a reaction composition; and

incubating the reaction composition at a temperature suitable for releasing the nucleic acids from the biological sample, wherein the reaction composition is incubated at a temperature of less than 60° C;

wherein the nucleic acid is ribonucleic acid.

107. (Previously presented) The method of claim 106, wherein the reaction composition is incubated at a temperature between 40° C and 50° C.

108. (Canceled)

109. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A method for ~~of claim 108,~~ releasing nucleic acids from a biological sample comprising:

combining the sample with at least one cationic surfactant, at least one protease, and a buffer, to form a reaction composition, wherein the reaction composition has a pH between 5.0 and 7.0; and

incubating the reaction composition at a temperature suitable for releasing the nucleic acids from the biological sample;

wherein the nucleic acid is ribonucleic acid.

110. (Previously presented) The method of claim 109, wherein the reaction composition is incubated at a temperature between 40° C and 50° C, and wherein the reaction composition further comprises aurintricarboxylic acid.

111 - 117. (Canceled)

118. (Currently amended) ~~The A kit of claim 117,~~ for obtaining nucleic acid from a biological sample comprising at least one cationic surfactant; at least one protease; and at least one organic solvent for extracting the nucleic acids, precipitating the nucleic acids, or both extracting and precipitating the nucleic acids; wherein the organic solvent for extracting nucleic acids comprises phenol and the organic solvent for precipitating nucleic acids comprises isopropanol or ethanol.

119-120. (Canceled)

121. (Currently amended) ~~The A kit of claim 111,~~ for obtaining nucleic acid from a biological sample comprising at least one cationic surfactant and at least one protease, wherein the kit further comprising comprises a polymer.

122. (Canceled)

123. (Currently amended) ~~The A kit of claim 111,~~ for obtaining nucleic acid from a biological sample comprising at least one cationic surfactant and at least one protease, wherein the kit further comprising comprises at least one ribonuclease inhibitor.

124. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 123, wherein the at least one ribonuclease inhibitor is aurintricarboxylic acid, vanadylate ribonucleoside complexes, phenylglyoxal, p-hydroxyphenylglyoxal, polyamines, spermidine, 9-aminoacridine,

iodoacetate, Bentonite, poly[2'-O-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)]poly(adenylic acid), zinc sulfate, bromopyruvic acid, formamide, copper, or zinc.

125. (Currently amended) ~~The A kit of claim 111,~~ for obtaining nucleic acid from a biological sample comprising at least one cationic surfactant and at least one protease, wherein the kit further comprising comprises at least one solubilizing agent.

126. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 125, wherein the solubilizing agent comprises 1-methyl 2 pyrrolidinone, N-methyl pyrrolidinone, pyrrolidinone, dimethylformamide, or dimethylsulfoxide.